



12-21-05

Attorney's Docket No.: 10973-109001 / K43-160302M/KIK

AF
JFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Toshihisa Hayami

Art Unit : 2632

Serial No. : 10/697,524 ✓

Examiner : Sihong Huang

Filed : October 30, 2003

Title : VEHICLE HEADLAMP APPARATUS

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

It is ok to
enterThank you
T.N.REPLY TO ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

In the final Office action, the claims were rejected as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,511,161 (Sato et al.) and 6,325,528 (Wittmeier et al.). As discussed below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

The Sato et al. patent relates to a system that includes a main unit 3 and one or more sub-units 4, 5, 6 (FIG. 1). That patent discloses that, when runaway of the microcomputer in the sub-unit is detected, a power shut-off means in the main unit shuts off the power supply to the sub-unit. The microcomputer in the sub-unit is reset when the power supply is restarted.

The Wittmeier et al. patent relates to a vehicle headlight assembly that includes a motor 9 to regulate the aim of the light beam. The motor is controlled by a control unit 10, which is part of the headlight assembly (FIG. 1).

Claim 1 recites that the main control circuit causes the power supply control means to continue to maintain the power supply cut off state when the main control circuit repeatedly detects an abnormality in the sub-control circuit after the power supply control means has been activated. Thus, if the abnormality is detected repeatedly, power is cut-off from the sub-control circuit and is not reset as it would otherwise be (i.e., the cut off state is "maintained"). As explained in the Specification:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. ET679043823USDecember 20, 2005
Date of Deposit